



## GUILDFORD HOCKEY CLUB

AFFILIATED TO SURREY HOCKEY ASSOCIATION AND ENGLAND HOCKEY  
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### AGM 2022 – Men’s Section Report – 2021/22

The Men’s Captains and Coaches sat down in Aug/Sept of 2021 to talk about and plan what they hoped for their specific squads for the forthcoming season – and when we meet for our “End of season curry” to look back on the season, the outcome was very positive.

When you start a season you always have an aspiration of what you would like to happen -and plenty of questions...“how many players will turn up this year?”, “will we have enough keepers?”, “what will the performances be like on the pitch?” .. you hope for the best and fear the worst.

The overall number of playing members is up marginally year-on-year, but without some more radical changes I feel our male membership may be plateau-ing. We are in a very competitive geographic area; there are easily 3-4 clubs within a 5-8 mile radius of GHC. If you have any ideas about how to make your club a more fun & inclusive place to be please reach out.

This year we have invested in more coaches for all the teams, and I really think that this investment has helped teams get the best results possible on a Saturday. We have focussed on getting more junior boys into adult hockey and we have tried to identify which players should move up and down the section’s teams. Moving players to a higher side is an easy conversation to have but moving players to lower sides is never easy and I can honestly say that all players, young and old, have trusted and accepted these movements. On behalf of the Captains & Coaches, thank you.

I won’t mention any specific side but just a few people who have contributed to the section’s success...

Firstly, the coaches: we don’t have an extensive range of coaches, but they are all highly skilled and all of them have put long hours into team preparation – again, thank you! One coach is leaving us this year, Neil Francis, who has been involved with the M2’s for a number of years and helped them secure a very commanding promotion this season. Neil is going to focus on his Hockey as he prepares to play for Wales in the World Cup in South Africa later in the year – good luck!

The other person who has really helped me is Mike Fitter. Mike is relatively new to the club and has been incredible. In addition to being the Adult Fixture Secretary, he runs 2 sides on a Saturday (the Cavaliers), runs Back to Hockey on a Friday night, has organised a number of inter club "Mix-ups " bringing Men, Women and Juniors together, and in his spare time in the summer runs a another very successful Master Hockey mid-week social hockey. You are an incredible asset to the club, Mike, thank you!

So 2021/22 has been a great season and I am already heavily involved in 2022/23 planning ...our goal is we can look back in 12 months' time to see continued success: more promotions, more players playing at a higher level and more social events.

Our goal is to be a Great a Place to Play fun & competitive hockey – great hockey for everyone. We have some of the best facilities in the South East and through the good work of many we try offer something for everyone. If you have any ideas on how we can make the club a better place, please let me know.

The other 2 names I must mention are Mens 2's Captain Harry Curtis and Alex "Lawts" Lawton (MO40s Pilgrims) who are both are standing down from their role as Captains. Both have been great to work with and on behalf of the players – thank you!

Well, for this year I can truly say I am very proud of what the Men's Section has achieved. It hasn't been 100% perfect but it's been very close.

Enjoy the summer off stay fit and healthy and see you in September.

*Mike Kefford – GHC Men's Captain*  
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